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Vaccine E-Letter # 231

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www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm

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Increases in VFC Vaccine Allotments

The ISDH VFC program has increased individual provider shipments of hepatitis A, MCV4 (Menactra), and Tdap vaccines. Previous limitations of orders for these vaccines have been relaxed. All VFC providers should carefully consider their monthly needs and order these vaccines accordingly. All vaccine orders will continue to be scrutinized and those deemed excessive will be reduced, but we hope to be able to provide adequate shipments of these vaccines to allow providers to immunize the recommended patients.

VFC Vaccine Update

We are temporarily out of the following vaccines: Trihibit (which should be in stock very soon), Adacel, ActHib, Prevnar, and Polio vaccines.

March orders of HPV (Gardasil) vaccine will be processed today. They will be shipped to providers next week. Please order only what you will need for one month. The VFC program does not maintain excess inventory of HPV vaccine, therefore VFC providers must only keep in stock the number of doses they will need for that month. Thank you.

Please remember that because of manufacturing difficulties ProQuad (MMR/varicella combination vaccine) shipments are being delayed from Merck. Providers may want to consider ordering MMR and varicella vaccines separately until ProQuad is again readily available.

Recently we have had some vaccine loss incidents where a refrigerator or freezer door has been left open overnight resulting in vaccine loss. We would like you to be sure

that someone is responsible for checking the refrigerator before they leave each day to ensure that the doors are properly closed and secured.

A storage and handling guide is available at www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3036.pdf.

There also seems to be some misunderstanding about which vaccines must be stored in the freezer. Both varicella & ProQuad should be stored in the freezer. These vaccines come packed in dry ice for that reason. All other vaccines should be stored in the refrigerator, however, MMR may also be stored in the freezer if space is a concern.

Requirements for Mumps Lab Samples

So far, there have been no reported laboratory-confirmed mumps cases in Indiana for 2007. The ISDH receives very few reports that meet the clinical case definition for mumps disease:

“an illness with acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland, lasting for two or more days, and without other apparent cause.”

The ISDH laboratory receives many specimens for mumps testing that are not satisfactory. Health care providers can submit buccal swab specimens for mumps PCR testing to the ISDH lab and need to be aware of several common problems with collection and transport that may render specimens unsatisfactory for testing:

- Buccal swabs **must** be placed in viral transport medium following collection.
- Buccal swabs should be **collected within 9 days** of the onset of symptoms.
- Buccal swabs arriving to the lab **warm cannot be tested**.
- Send or ship specimens as soon as possible.
- Avoid shipping over weekends or holidays- in these instances, maintain specimen(s) under refrigeration until the following Monday, then ship with cold packs.

Following these procedures will decrease the time and effort required for testing, and allow the ISDH lab to provide practitioners with reliable results.

A complete guide for mumps laboratory specimen collection including serological testing can be found at the following web address: www.in.gov/isdh/pdfs/HCPmumps_info2.pdf

CHIRP Security Enhancements

Due to the increasing volume of confidential medical information in the CHIRP Registry, enhanced security measures are being implemented. Beginning April 1st all users will be prompted to change their password at 60-day intervals. This will begin automatically the next time a user logs into CHIRP and will be required before access is granted.

Passwords must be at least eight characters in length and include one numeric digit. Please direct questions to the CHIRP Support Center at 888-227-4439 or chirp@isdh.IN.gov.

Introduction to Public Health Surveillance Course

CDC and Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University will cosponsor a course, Introduction to Public Health Surveillance, to be held May 7--11, 2007, at Emory University. The course is designed for state and local public health professionals.

The course will provide practicing public health professionals with the theoretical and practical tools necessary to design, implement, and evaluate an effective surveillance program. Topics include overview and history of surveillance systems; planning considerations; sources and collection of data; analysis, interpretation, and communication of data; surveillance systems technology; ethics and legalities; state and local concerns; and future considerations. Tuition will be charged.

Additional information and applications are available from Emory University by mail (Hubert Global Health Dept., 1518 Clifton Rd. NE, Rm. 746, Atlanta, GA 30322), by telephone (404-727-3485), by fax (404-727-4590), online (<http://www.sph.emory.edu/epicourses>), or by e-mail (pvaleri@sph.emory.edu).

ACIP's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Recommendations Now Published In MMWR Recommendations And Reports

CDC published "Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)" in the March 23 MMWR Recommendations and Reports. Previously, the recommendations were available in electronic format as an MMWR Early Release.

Note: The PDF version (linked below) includes a free CDC-sponsored continuing-education activity that can be completed online or submitted by U.S. mail for CME, CEU, or CNE credit. Simply read the primer, answer the questions at the end, and follow instructions for submitting your answers.

To access a ready-to-print (PDF) version of the human papillomavirus vaccine recommendations, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5602.pdf>

To access a web-text (HTML) version of them, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5602a1.htm>

Good Friday

Because of the holiday, there will not be a *Vaccine E-Letter* next Friday.